



NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC  
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

## Standards Announcement Successive Ballot Open October 2-14, 2010

Available at: <https://standards.nerc.net/CurrentBallots.aspx>

### **Project 2007-17 Protection System Maintenance Definition**

A successive ballot for the definition of “Protection System” is now open through **8 p.m. Eastern on October 14, 2010**.

### **Instructions**

Members of the ballot pool associated with this project may log in and submit their votes from the following page: <https://standards.nerc.net/CurrentBallots.aspx>

The Standards Committee encourages all members of the ballot pool to review the consideration of comments for the previous ballot and the modifications that team made to the definition. In a successive ballot, votes are not carried forward from the previous ballot.

### **Transition from Reliability Standards Development Procedure Version 7 – to Standard Processes Manual**

Under the Reliability Standards Development Procedure Version 7, consensus was built with successive formal comment periods, followed by a 30-day pre-ballot review, followed by an initial ballot, and then a recirculation ballot. The intent was to use stakeholder views submitted through the formal comment periods to achieve consensus, and then to confirm that consensus during the balloting. This process did not allow a drafting team to make any changes to a standard (or definition) between ballots, which incited teams to avoid making improvements once a standard (or definition) had gone through an initial ballot. If a team made a change between ballots, then the standard (or definition) was required to be posted for a new comment period and then another pre-ballot review and another initial ballot, and finally if there were no more changes made to the standard (or definition), a recirculation ballot was conducted to confirm consensus.

Under the new Standard Processes Manual, consensus is achieved through parallel comment and ballot periods. Successive comment and ballot periods are conducted until there is consensus – and then a recirculation ballot is conducted to confirm that consensus. There is no 30-day pre-ballot review period, and drafting teams are encouraged to make revisions to the standard between successive ballots to improve the quality of the standard (or definition).



## Next Steps

Voting results will be posted and announced after the ballot window closes.

## Project Background

When the Board of Trustees was asked to approve an interpretation of PRC-005-1 that was written by the Protection System and Maintenance Standard Drafting Team, the board acknowledged the reliability gap identified by the drafting team caused by the definition of "protection system" and directed that work to close this reliability gap should be given "priority." The Standards Committee directed the team to advance the definition of Protection System in parallel with the development of PRC-005-2.

Project page: [http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Protection\\_System\\_Maintenance\\_Project\\_2007-17.html](http://www.nerc.com/filez/standards/Protection_System_Maintenance_Project_2007-17.html)

## Standards Process

The [Standard Processes Manual](#) contains all the procedures governing the standards development process. The success of the NERC standards development process depends on stakeholder participation. We extend our thanks to all those who participate.

*For more information or assistance, please contact Monica Benson,  
Standards Process Administrator, at [monica.benson@nerc.net](mailto:monica.benson@nerc.net) or at 609.452.8060.*

North American Electric Reliability Corporation  
116-390 Village Blvd.  
Princeton, NJ 08540  
609.452.8060 | [www.nerc.com](http://www.nerc.com)